

ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY.

[To accompany Senate bill No. 283.]

JULY 8, 1842.

Mr. STANLY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill from the Senate (No. 283) entitled "An act respecting the organization of the army, and for other purposes," report :*

That the committee have had the said bill under consideration, and have agreed to report the same, with the following amendment, to be added to the first section, viz :

"*Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the re-enlistment of non-commissioned officers whose terms of service may expire before the army shall be reduced to the number heretofore established."

The committee have also examined the report made by the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, which accompanied this bill, and which is explanatory of the subject; and have agreed to adopt the said report, which is as follows :

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, *June 21, 1842.*

Mr. PRESTON submitted the following report :

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the following resolution :*

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, *June 15, 1842.*

"On motion by Mr. Evans,

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the army of the United States to the scale proposed in the proviso to the first section of the bill of the House making appropriations for the support of the army and of the military academy for the year 1842; and, also, into the expediency of regulating the pay of the general staff in the manner therein proposed; and, also, into the expediency of regulating the allowance of rations to commanding officers of separate posts, as provided in number 2 of said first section, and in the second section of said act, and to report their opinion upon said several matters to the Senate."

Attest :

ASBURY DICKINS, *Secretary.*

*Have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report :*

That the army of the United States being established and organized by a series of enactments, regularly passed through all the established forms of legislation, it would be inexpedient to introduce into it any very essential modifications, but by a process equally deliberate.

The committee, therefore, submit that the changes and reductions suggested in the appropriation bill, now before the Committee of Finance, to which the attention of the Committee on Military Affairs has been called by the resolution quoted above, are inappropriate to that bill, and are properly to be considered as separate and substantive measures, requiring all the forms and all the essentials of deliberation due to an important branch of the public service, consultation with the proper Executive departments, the action of appropriate committees, and the regular progress of distinct enactments.

At the commencement of the present session, the aspect of our foreign affairs, and the condition of the Florida war, induced the Department and the committee to contemplate the augmentation of the army as an event more probable than its reduction.

The increased energy and success of the operations in Florida have authorized, within a short period, the abstraction of a portion of the force from that service, and its restoration to its appropriate duties on the Western frontier, and at the various fortifications and military posts around our extended territory. The progress of military works during the protracted hostilities in Florida, and the large accessions of Indians on the Western frontier, would seem to demand a larger force than was required before the commencement of the war; and thus, regarded in a military point of view, the policy of every reduction of the army would hardly admit of question.

But the subject is presented to the committee in a financial aspect, and it is *compelled* to consider what possible retrenchment, at all consistent with a *necessary* military establishment, may be made, so as, in this department as well as others, to effect some relief for the exhausted revenues of the country. With a profound sense of the necessity of making just sacrifices to the actual emergency, the committee have come to the conclusion that, preserving the present organization of the army, so that it may, whenever necessary, be rapidly and efficiently expanded, a considerable diminution may be submitted to in its actual numbers.

The proviso in the first section of the bill from the House, which has been referred to the committee, proposes, first, to disband the second regiment of dragoons; second, to reduce the artillery companies from 71 to 55; and, third, the infantry companies from 90 to 51—making, in the aggregate, a reduction of 4,475 from the present establishment of non-commissioned officers, musicians, artificers, and privates, amounting to 11,804, leaving a force, on paper, of 7,329, which it would be exceedingly difficult to keep up, by enlistments, to 6,000.

The committee propose a different and a less extensive plan of reduction, which, in their judgment, will leave the army in a much more effective condition, and at very little more cost than the plan suggested by the House bill.

In regard to the second regiment of dragoons, by the law authorizing its creation, the President may, whenever he thinks it expedient, order it to be dismounted, and to serve on foot, either in the line or as light infantry, and thus may, if the exigencies of the service require it, form it into a rifle regi-

ment. This discretion has already been exercised, to a certain extent, by the Department, in the dismissal of thirty horses in each company of both regiments of dragoons, making a very large saving in this most costly branch of the service ; and, doubtless, this course of reduction will be still further persisted in if the exigencies of the service authorize it.

The committee, therefore, propose to continue the second regiment of dragoons, with this diminution of actual expense, and a reduction of the privates in each company, of both regiments, to fifty instead of the present number of seventy-one.

It is also proposed to reduce each company of artillery and infantry to fifty, suffering the non-commissioned staff of regiments, and the other enlisted men of companies—sergeants, corporals, musicians, farriers, in the dragoons, and artificers, in the artillery—to remain as at present.

This arrangement gives sixty non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates to each company of infantry, sixty-one, including a farrier, to each company of dragoons, and sixty-three, including artificers, to each company of artillery. By this plan the following reduction will be effected :

In the twenty companies of dragoons	-	-	-	-	200
In the forty companies of artillery	-	-	-	-	320
In the eighty companies of infantry	-	-	-	-	2,400
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					2,920

Leaving the strength of the army 8,884 enlisted men, instead of 7,329, as proposed by the House bill, making a difference of 1,555. An army of 8,884, on paper, will give an effective force in the field, on an average, of about 7,000 ; and this is less than the standing force established in the year 1808, in Mr. Jefferson's administration, and the minimum necessary, in the opinion of the committee, for the daily demands of the service.

The pay of the general staff is another subject presented to the consideration of the committee, by the resolution of the Senate. They have come to the conclusion that this subject should be postponed to the next session of Congress, for the purpose of procuring from the Department a full report, both upon the organization and pay of the staff, so as to enable Congress to legislate intelligently and efficiently on the subject. In the mean time, however, the committee propose the abolition of the commissary general of purchases and the superintendents of armories.

In regard to the allowance of additional rations, under certain circumstances, the committee entertain no doubt of its propriety. They are allowed, or equivalents for them, in all armies, to meet the extraordinary expenses unavoidably incurred by officers in particular situations. In certain specified cases, therefore, the committee propose to continue those allowances, making, however, a large reduction upon the amount for some years past. The following table exhibits the saving by the proposed reductions :

TABLE.

Number.	Description.	Pay.	Subsistence received through subsistence department, by privates.	Forage furnished by quartermasters' department for privates' horses.	Soldiers' clothing.	Amount.
200	Dragoons, (privates,) pay and clothing per annum	\$19,200	—	—	\$6,486 80	\$25,686 80
320	Artillery, (privates,) pay and clothing per annum	26,880	—	—	8,828 14	35,708 14
2,400	Infantry, (privates,) pay and clothing per annum	201,600	—	—	65,395 20	266,995 20
		247,680	—	—	80,710 14	328,390 14
1	Commissary General of Purchases	3,000	Subsistence.	Forage.	Serv'ts' cloth'g.	
3	Paymasters, including servants	2,736	—	—	—	3,000 00
	Double rations	—	\$1,314	1,152	180 00	5,382 00
			40,000	—	—	40,000 00
		5,736	41,314	1,152	180 00	48,382 00
	Total saving in the Quartermaster General's department, for regular supplies, repairs, rents, transportation, &c.	—	—	—	—	\$81,064 37
	Total saving by reducing the dragoons to forty horses per troop	—	—	—	—	89,443 61
			—	—	—	170,507 98
	Subsistence for 2,920 men	—	165,209	—	—	165,209 00
	Superintendents at armories, Harper's Ferry and Springfield	—	—	—	—	4,428 80
		5,736	206,523	1,152	180 00	716,917 92